United Nations CAT/C/SR.1653

Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

Distr.: General
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Committee against Torture
Sixty-third session

Summary record of the first part (public)* of the 1653rd meeting
Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on, Friday, 18 May 2018, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Modvig

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* The summary record of the second part (closed) of the meeting appears as document CAT/C/SR.1653/Add.1.

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The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Adoption of the annual report of the Committee on its activities

1. **The Chair** invited Mr. Touzé to present the Committee's draft annual report on its sixty-first, sixty-second and sixty-tnird sessions (CAT/C/63/R.1).

2. **Mr. Touzé** said that the draft annual report would be amended to reflect a correction submitted in writing by one of the Committee members. Among the most notable elements presented in the draft report were the new composition of the membership of the Committee, the adoption of general comment No. 4 on the implementation of article 3 of the Convention in the context of article 22, and the Committee's interaction with the European Court of Human Rights, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.

3. *The draft annual report of the Committee, as a whole, was adopted, subject to the necessary amendments.*

Organizational and other matters

4. **The Chair** said that at its current session, the Committee had adopted concluding observations on the reports of Belarus, Czechia, Norway, Qatar, Senegal and Tajikistan. It had also adopted lists of issues prior to reporting on Andorra, Azerbaijan, Denmark, Jordan, Liechtenstein and Thailand.

5. The country rapporteurs for the reviews due to take place during the Committee's sixty-fourth session were: Ms. Racu and Mr. Rodríguez-Pinzón for the report of Chile; Mr. Touzé and Ms. Belmir for the report of Mauritania; himself and Mr. Heller Rouassant for the report of the Russian Federation; and Mr. Hani and Mr. Tuzmukhamedov for Seychelles, in the absence of a report. At its sixty-fourth session, the Committee would adopt lists of issues prior to reporting on France, Israel, the Philippines and Turkey, and lists of issues on Benin and South Africa.

6. The country rapporteurs for the reports from States parties to be considered at the sixty-fifth session were: Mr. Touzé and Mr. Tuzmukhamedov for Canada; Mr. Rodríguez-Pinzón and Ms. Racu for Guatemala; Ms. Gaer and Mr. Hani for Maldives; Mr. Hani and Ms. Zhang for the Netherlands; Mr. Heller Rouassant and Mr. Rodríguez-Pinzón for Peru; and himself and Ms. Belmir for Viet Nam.

7. At its sixty-sixth session, the Committee would consider the reports of Benin, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Germany, Mexico, South Africa and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

8. During each session, the consideration of each report would be preceded by confidential briefings from United Nations bodies, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations.

9. During the current session, the Committee had undertaken follow-up work under articles 19 and 22 of the Convention and in relation to reprisals and had considered relevant matters under article 20. It had adopted decisions on 17 individual complaints and discontinued 8 other cases.

10. The Committee had met with the Chair of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and representatives of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and the Convention against Torture Initiative. It had held an informal meeting with States parties whose initial reports were overdue and had received briefings on the Dublin Regulation, the capacity-building programme of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the application of the Convention with respect to children.

11. The Committee had decided to establish a Working Group to deal with those individual communications the secretariat had deemed inadmissible or had recommended for discontinuance. Any cases in which the Working Group was unable to reach a consensus would be presented to the Committee. The Working Group would operate as a pilot project to be evaluated at the Committee's sixty-fourth session.

12. Several events were scheduled for the sixty-fourth session, including a thematic briefing on vulnerable groups, organized by Penal Reform International, and a joint plenary meeting with the Human Rights Committee. Events planned for the sixty-fifth session included a briefing by the World Organization against Torture on the issue of gender-based violence and a joint meeting with the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture on non-coercive investigation methods.

The public part of the meeting was suspended at 10.15 a.m. and resumed at 11.20 a.m.

Closure of the session

13. **The Chair** said that the current meeting marked the closure of the Committee's sixty-third session.

The meeting rose at 11.25 a.m.

United Nations CAT/C/SR.1654

Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

Distr.: General
27 July 2018

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Committee against Torture
Sixty-fourth session

Summary record of the first part (public)* of the 1654th meeting
Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Monday, 23 July 2018, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Modvig

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* The summary record of the second part (closed) of the meeting appears as document CAT/C/SR.1654/Add.1.

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Opening of the session

1. **The Chair** declared open the sixty-fourth session of the Committee against Torture.

2. **Ms. Edelenbos** (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)) said that she wished to apprise the Committee of two positive developments. On 31 May 2018, the Bahamas had become the 164th State party to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, while on 8 June 2018, after a delay of almost 20 years, Niger had filed its initial report to the Committee. Those two events were clearly linked to the technical assistance visit to the Bahamas of the Convention against Torture Initiative in November 2017; and to the activities undertaken by the OHCHR Capacity-Building Programme in Niger, working through the OHCHR West Africa Regional Office in Dakar. The Convention against Torture Initiative and the OHCHR Capacity-Building Programme were thus key partners both to States parties and to the Committee.

3. The thirtieth meeting of Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies had been held in New York from 28 May to 1 June 2018. In light of the preparations for the 2020 review of the treaty body system, the Chairs had highlighted their inherent responsibility emanating from their mandates and their right to contribute to strengthening the system. The long-standing issue of lack of sufficient resources for the treaty bodies had been addressed at various meetings with relevant stakeholders. One of the outcomes of the thirtieth meeting was a proposal to appoint focal points in each treaty body to develop a common position prior to the 2020 review. Further alignment of the simplified reporting procedure would be considered at the 2019 meeting and the Chairs had also endorsed possible elements for a common, aligned procedure for follow-up to concluding observations, decisions and views. The Secretary-General of the United Nations had met with the Chairs and had expressed his strong support for the treaty bodies.

4. Welcoming the joint statement issued by the coalition of United Nations anti-torture mechanisms on 26 June 2018, under the title "70 years on, torture is still widespread: more action needed to achieve a torture-free world for all", she noted that the prohibition of torture had become jus cogens and was recognized as so fundamental that it superseded all treaties and customary law.

5. The Committee's work on individual complaints under article 22 of the Convention had made a significant contribution to the eradication of torture and she welcomed the steps taken by the Committee to reduce the backlog of such communications, including through the establishment of an intersessional working group to lighten the workload of plenary sittings by considering draft decisions to discontinue or declare complaints inadmissible before the full Committee sessions. The working group would report to the Committee at the current session, and its effectiveness could begin to be assessed.

6. **Mr. Hani** said that he would appreciate details on the number of initial reports still due for submission.

7. **Ms. Edelenbos** said that she would provide that information later in the session, after conferring with colleagues from the Capacity-Building Programme.

Adoption of the agenda (CAT/C/64/1)

8. *The agenda was adopted.*

The public part of the meeting rose at 10.30 a.m.